

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1652**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hu *et al.* Group Art Unit: 1652
Application No.: 10/041,770 Examiner: S. Swope
Filed: 1/8/2002
Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides
Encoding the Same Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0294-USA

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mail Stop AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on February 5, 2003 (Paper No. 9), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the rejections in Paper No. 9 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of two months to and including July 5, 2003, which falls on a Saturday and is therefore extended until Monday, July 7, 2003 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.



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